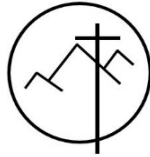


*There will be a time of quiet meditation when the music stops*

Mountain Community Mennonite Church  
Box 502  
Palmer Lake, CO 80133  
(719) 481-3155



Join Us – We share God’s love by: Following Jesus, Being  
a Reconciling Community and Building Peace

“We are a new creation in Christ, leading us in the  
ministry of peace and reconciliation.” 2 Cor. 5

**DATE: December 17, 2023**

**9:00 am:** *Worship Begins*

**Coffee**

**10:00:** Discovery Hour

**Lead Pastor:** Vern Rempel

[vkrempel@gmail.com](mailto:vkrempel@gmail.com)

[soulreport.WordPress.com](http://soulreport.WordPress.com)

**Elders:** Barb Eichelberger, Wilmer Villacorta

**Information Technology Support:** Wilmer Villacorta

Mountain Community Senior Services (719) 488-0076

**Sermon downloads available at <http://mcmcp.org>**

*Please silence your cell phones. Thank You.*

*at 9:00 am prior to the start of worship. We invite you to join in  
this time of silence before our service begins. \**

**DATE: December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

### ***Order of Service***

**Speaker**

**Ivy Johnson**

**Worship Leader:**

**Dennis Book**

**Song Leader:**

**Vern Rempel**

**Sound room:**

**Jake Eichelberger**

### ***We Gather***

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Time of Quieting**

**Advent Candle Lighting:**

**Rae Shellenberger**

**Call to Worship:**

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Worship with  
gladness and singing!

**Many: God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and  
Shepherd. Bless God’s name.**

One: Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

**Many: God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God’s name.**

One: Know that God reigns! God’s kingdom comes!

**Many: God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend.**

**Bless God’s name!**

### **WE GROW IN WORSHIP**

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymns:**

His Eye is on the Sparrow

I’ll Fly Away

**Prayers of the people and sharing the grace.....**

**Congregational Hymn:**

Wade in the Water

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Confession):**

Sovereign God, transform us in your image. Your reign is just and righteous. We go our own way and live according to our own will. Make us ambassadors of your kingdom. Let us represent you through words and actions. May we release our need for anything that creates a barrier to loving you and our neighbor. May we know and bear witness that we are all neighbors. Amen.

**Scriptures:** Matthew 5: 1-11, Matthew 6: 6-20

**Sermon:** A Canary in the Coal Mine

### ***We Go Out to Serve***

**Sending Song :**

Mary Don’t You Weep

**Sending Prayer**

*\*\*Your worship service today was planned by the MCMC  
Worship Commission.\*\**

Please return the hymnals to boxes provided at back of sanctuary. Exit promptly to Narthex. Thank you

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Rick Shellenberger B December 21  
Karen Weins B January 8  
Steve Diller B January 10

**MCMC**

**Mountain States Conference New**

Snow Camps are coming again in 2024!

Jr. High.....January 19-21  
Scrapbook Retreat.....January 26-28  
Sr. High.....February 16-18  
Young Adult.....February 16-18

Check out the latest [Zing! newsletter here!](#)

The Soil and the Seed Project that emerged from folks in the Walking Roots band released a new Advent/Christmas/Epiphany album. Listen for free at <https://www.thesoilandtheseedproject.org/>

**FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP...**

Scrapbook Retreat, Jan. 26-28 is your opportunity to create paper or digital photo books and share ideas and good conversation with other scrapbook participants. Lisa Longacher will return as our program resource for the retreat and help facilitate a variety of activities. Please come for retreat and community in God's creation here at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.

**MENNONITE CHURCH USA**

**Safe Church**, Mennonite Church USA's newly formed abuse prevention ministry, now has a webpage available on the MC USA website. The webpage offers resources to help faith communities keep children, youth and

vulnerable adults safe from all abuse. Among other materials, the webpage contains a major update to the **Circle of Grace curriculum**.

The full news release is: [MC USA launches Safe Church webpage, updates to 2023 Circle of Grace curriculum | Mennonite Church USA \(mennoniteusa.org\)](#)

**The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board** strengthened key relationships and discussed creative strategies for convention and revitalization at the first Executive Board meeting of the biennium Oct. 18-20, 2023, in Cleveland, Ohio. [Read more here.](#)

**Menno Snapshots:** Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, climate justice coordinator for Mennonite Church USA, reflects on how to respond to climate doom with resistance and resilience, after attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Rooted and Grounded conference. Read her reflection [here.](#)

**FROM MENNOMEDIA...** "The Holy in the Night, Finding Freedom in a Season of Waiting" by Shannon W. Dycus | Available for purchase [here.](#) Watch a webinar on "Community Devotion: Implementing Devotional Books in a Congregational Setting" with Shannon W. Dycus [here.](#)

**FROM MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE...**

Calling all volunteers! You can be a part of bringing hope to communities affected by disaster by volunteering for a week or more. We love having you on board with us! Click [here](#) to see all the ways to volunteer with MDS.

**MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY...**

"How Will We Know" by Talashia Keim Yoder | Available in English and Spanish for free download [here.](#)

**MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE...**

Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024! This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at [mcc.org/south-texas-lt](http://mcc.org/south-texas-lt). Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, [abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org](mailto:abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org).

MCC Responding to the Palestine and Israel conflict: As conflict has escalated in the region, MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC remains committed to a just peace for all... Our response will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. MCC's work will build on previous responses to the ongoing conflict, including the distribution of food and bedding. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction. Donate online at [mcc.org/Palestine-Israel](http://mcc.org/Palestine-Israel) or call 1-888-563-4676